



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,728	09/19/2003	Jennifer Amys	1640.001US1	6050
21186	7590	08/03/2011	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG & WOESSNER, P.A.			ADAMS, CHARLES D	
P.O. BOX 2938			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			2164	
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
08/03/2011	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspto@slwip.com
request@slwip.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/666,728	AMYS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHARLES ADAMS	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2011.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on 6 June 2011, claim 1 is amended and claim 3 is cancelled. Claim 1 is pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aber et al. (US Patent 7,283,976) and further in view of Bata (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0097364).

As to claim 1, Aber et al. teaches a method comprising:

receiving, from two or more different software systems, copies of electronic data relating to a transaction involving documentation communicated in an electronic form (see 5:52-55 and Figure 9. Invoices are received from multiple vendors in response to a purchase order), the received documentation including remittance advice advising of a completed payment processing activity (see Figure 11, for an example of an invoice received from a company that contains “remittance advice advising of a completed payment processing activity”), wherein:

the received electronic data relating to the transaction is produced by the two or more different software systems from which the electronic data is received (see 5:52-55 and Figure 9); and

the copies of the electronic data received in a system performing the method which is not one of the systems from which the data is received (see 5:52-55 and Figure 9) and is received only for the purpose of maintaining a central archive repository of e-commerce activity documentation of e-commerce activity (see 5:52-55 and 6:4-48. A central archive repository of e-commerce activity documentation is created that may be searched and accessed by users);

processing copies of the electronic data to identify electronic documentation items and further processing copies of the electronic data to identify at least one key value associated with an electronic documentation item received from one of the at least two different software systems, wherein the at least one key value includes a key value that identifies the transaction in the software system the electronic documentation item is received from (see 5:66-6:3 and Figures 10 and 11. A “Vendor Invoice” identifier is recorded that may be searched for by a user in Figure 10);

using the at least one key value to look up, in a life cycle index table that contains key values of the processed transactions, a unique transaction identifier associated with the transaction on a system performing the method (see Figures 10 and 11. An Invoice transaction identifier is searched for using the interface of Figure 10. Also see 5:66-6:3), wherein within the lifecycle index table the transaction includes one unique transaction identifier and two or more associated key values, wherein each key value is a key value

used to identify the transaction within one of the two or more different software systems from which the electronic data relating to the transaction was received (see Figures 10 and 11 and 5:66-6:3. The invoice key is stored, along with company, vendor number, vendor invoice, purchase order number, and date information. Any of the data items are “key values” that are used to identify the transaction within one of the systems that the data was received from);

indexing the documentation items in the life cycle index table according to the at least one key value and transaction identifier (see Figures 10 and 11, and 6:4-44);

archiving the documentation items in an archive database stored within a data storage system or device, the archiving including storing the documentation items within the archive database on the data storage system or device associated with their respective life cycle identifiers (see Figures 10 and 11, and 6:4-44);

logging, in a log detail database, one or more of a date and time associated with at least some of the documentation items to provide a chronological order to transactions (see Figures 10 and 11. Users may search for invoices according to start and end dates, and 6:4-44), and

wherein all documentation items relating to a transaction are retrievable using one of the key values of the two or more different software systems from which the electronic data relating to the transaction was received (see Figures 10 and 11, and 6:4-44).

Aber et al. does not teach:

processing copies of the electronic data to identify electronic documentation items by document type according to one or more transaction types identified in a transaction specification database;

Bata teaches:

processing copies of the electronic data to identify electronic documentation items by document type according to one or more transaction types identified in a transaction specification database (see paragraphs [0053] and [0054])

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Aber et al. by the teachings of Bata, because Bata provides Aber et al. the benefit of the ability to receive data in the form of transaction documents from disparate data systems, convert the data, and store it in a unified tabular storage system (see paragraph [0014]-[0015]).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHARLES ADAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-3938. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M - F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2164

/Charles Rones/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164